only a current account with the Imperial Bank and have no fixed deposits there. The State-Aided Bank is trying to issue loans at as low an interest as possible. You have to consider the present economic depression and the stringency of the money market.

Under the Proclamation of the 15th November 1913, Travancore silver coins are legal tender in the State up to two rupees and copper coins up to one rupee. All the Banks in the State, including the Imperial Bank, are therefore bound to accept the coins up to that extent.

The question of shifting the Panchayat Court to another building will be considered after a report is received from the District Magistrate in the matter.

For judges for the Panchayat Courts, we try to get, as far as possible, people of status, education and respectability.

The Sabhapathikoil street and others no doubt need widening; but the acquisition of land for that purpose will be very expensive. We must, therefore, wait until there is more money available.

An estimate is being prepared for a drainage scheme in the town, and there is a sum of Rs. 5,000 provided in this year's budget. The matter, at present, is pending with the Municipal Council. We want to know how much the Council is prepared to contribute.

The Municipality has passed no resolution prohibiting the keeping of buffaloes in Chalai. All that the Council has done is to frame a set of bye-laws regulating buffalo-rearing in the town. That draft was sent back to the Council and it has formed a sub-committee to consider the question.

As I told the previous speaker, the question of removing elsewhere or abolishing the arrack shops within the municipal limits will wait until the whole question is considered and the result of the local option experiment at Changanachery is ascertained.

A draft bill for dealing with unqualified persons carrying on medical practice has been published for public criticism and the question of controlling the sale of drugs by unqualified persons will be considered.

84. Needs of the Trivandrum town.

MR. N. S. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) said that the citizens of Trivandrum and the local Municipal Council were highly grateful to the Government for the many benefits conferred on the inhabitants of the town at a very heavy outlay. It was, however, regrettable that the electrical extension in the town had not conferred the desired benefit, inasmuch as many roads with heavy traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, had not been provided with electric lights, while comparatively less important roads had been electrified. The extension of electric lighting should be done in consultation with the Municipal Council which was in charge of the lighting of the town. Again the Municipal Council was charged at the same rate as private consumers for the supply of energy by the Electrical Department. The Council being the biggest consumer of power should be charged at a concessional rate. The lighting grant

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originally allowed to the Municipality was arbitrarily appropriated by the Government as the charge for the lighting already undertaken. To remedy these defects the member suggested that a committee consisting of the Electrical Engineer, the local Municipal President and one of the non-official Municipal Councillors should be constituted and they should be entrusted with the management of the scheme.

The Public Works Department was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the drains in the town while the Municipality had to attend to the flushing and other sanitary works connected with them. This dual control did not work well. One agency should be made responsible for all the items of work. The member suggested as a temporary measure the formation of a committee consisting of the Trivandrum Executive Engineer, the local Municipal President and one of the non-official Municipal Councillors to control the drainage of the town. In this connection ,the member wanted to express the feelings of thankfulness of the people of the town to the Government for having taken up the question of a general drainage scheme for the town for immediate consideration. It was true that the drainage of a town was a matter primarily to be undertaken by the Municipality. But the finances of the Municipality did not permit it to undertake any costly schemes, especially the one like the drainage scheme, which was a non-productive one as contrasted with the reproductive schemes such as the Town Water Supply and Electric Supply schemes. It was only after the above reproductive schemes were transferred to the control of the Municipality and they were assured of a profit from them, that they would be able to launch on such costly non-productive schemes as the drainage scheme of the town.

Another important matter which should engage the attention of the Government was the urgent necessity of widening the existing roads and easing the curves in the town. The existing roads, which were designed long ago, were not at all suited to modern requirements of the town with the rapid increase in both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. No doubt the scheme of widening the town roads was a costly one. The member hoped that the Town-Planning Bill under consideration by the Legislature would cover this problem alsc. All the same the question of widening the roads should not be put off, but should be taken up immediately and proceeded with gradually, locality by locality, so as to be spread over a number of years.

Whenever lands were required for municipal purposes the practice was for the Government to acquire the land for the Municipal Council. The Council had no voice in the matter except to pay the compensation fixed by the Revenue authorities. There was also much delay in acquisition proceedings. The Council should therefore be invested with the power of acquiring lands required for municipal purposes under provisions similar to those of the Land Acquisition Regulation.

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There was a Regulation to control the storage and supply of articles of food and drink, but the necessary rules had not been framed to enforce the provisions of the Regulation. The milk and butter-milk supplied to the town were far from satisfactory; and according to expert opinion, of the many measures undertaken to improve the health of the town, this question deserved the foremost attention and consideration Early steps should therefore be taken for framing the necessary rules and bye-laws under the new Regulation.

It was true that the question of taking adequate measures to combat the spread of malaria, filaria, etc., was the legitimate duty of the Municipal Council. But with the slender resources of the Municipality, it was not able to undertake them single handed, without the co-operation of, and financial help from. the Government. Further, the town population was comprised, during the major part of the year, of outsiders, who contributed very little, if not nothing, to the resources of the Municipality. The Government should, at least for some time more to come, treat the Municipality as their direct agents in these matters and should afford all necessary financial and other help.

The question of providing a suitable site outside the town limits for locating the nightsoil depot had been engaging the serious attention of both the Government and the Municipal Council for some time past, but without any result. The inhabitants of the locality, where the night-soil trenching ground was located were incessantly complaining about the nuisance caused to them on this account. The Municipal Council had suggested more than four sites for the purpose, all of which had to be abandoned for one reason or another. The Revenue authorities who had been directed by the Government to render the Council all possible assistance in the matter were indifferent. A suitable site should be selected as early as possible for the purpose.

The member next urged about the necessity of providing more re-creation grounds and playgrounds in the town. This was directly connected with the improvement of the health of the people of the town.

As already stated the supply of milk and butter-milk to the town was very unsatisfactory. This was more so because there were no grazing grounds in the town. This defect should be remedied at an early date.

The liquor shops in the town should be removed from within the municipal limits. The town was best fitted to try the experiment of local option. The Abkari Rules were not strictly observed in the town. The rule that all liquor shops should be closed before 8 P. M., was not strictly adhered to. Again, the location of liquor shops in the vicinity of public institutions, though against the rules, was very common. These matters should receive the immediate attention of the Government.

Early steps should be taken for the establishment of a poor-house in the town. His Highness the Maha Raja was graciously pleased to make a liberal grant of Rs. 50,000 for a poor house in the town. The member prayed that before the first year of His Highness's reign elapsed, the poor-house in the city should become an accomplished fact.

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Lastly, the member spoke about the necessity for opening more child-welfare centres in the town. The Municipality was doing something in this direction, as far as their limited finances and staff admitted. But that was not sufficient. Each ward of the Municipality should possess at least one child-welfare centre of its own. This would greatly improve the health of the town and also check the high rate of infantile mortality.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, it has been the practice, from the very beginning, for the Council to be consulted about the roads to be lighted. The Electrical Engineer and the Municipal President made several joint inspections of the roads to be lighted; and information is supplied to the Council from time to time of new lights installed.

MEMBER: My information is that no result has come out of such joint inspections.

DEWAN: Extensions have not been made now because the question of the contribution by the Municipality is not decided. The Municipality does not contribute anything to the street lighting by electricity. Also, further extension depends on the prospect of getting private consumers.

MEMBER: The fact is that the Government are appropriating the lighting grant.

DEWAN: I cannot argue that question with you now.

Drains are mostly constructed at the instance of the Council. But obviously, the question of improving or constructing more drains should wait until the bigger question of a general drainage scheme for the whole town is considered. That, I hope, will come up as soon as the question of the contribution by the Municipal Council is settled.

Roads are being widened and corners cased every year, as far as funds permit. As you say, the Town-Planning Bill, will, I hope, cover that also.

At the moment, for acquiring lands, the procedure is under the Land Acquisition Regulation and that is the only regular procedure. Possibly, the new Municipal Bill will improve matters in regard to acquisition.

I am waiting for the rules to be drafted under the Food Adulteration Regulation. I hope that will be done soon.

The Public Health Department has been helping the Council as far as possible in combating filaria and malaria. That is a very important matter, and it is up to the Council to spend as much money as it can. The financial position of the Council is not bad; it is quite sound.

The question of opening a new nightsoil depot will be disposed of as soon as possible after a site for it is chosen.

As regards recreation and play grounds, that matter is also under consideration. I inspected one site to day to see whether it could be used for that.

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The opening of a poor-house is also engaging the attention of Government; and I trust this will be settled before the first year of His Highness's reign is over.

The opening of more child-welfare centres in the town depends, at the moment, on the finances of the Municipality.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-25 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

85. Needs of the Nedumangad taluk.

MR. S. JANARDANAN NAYAR (*Nedumangad taluk*) at the outset congratulated the Dewan on his assuming charge of the Administration just before the Assembly session as it gave him an opportunity to know the needs and requirements of the people of the State soon after his arrival as the Dewan.

Passing on to his subject, the member said that the taluk which he represented was a most important one. It was mainly mountainous. It had a very rich and wide area of reserved forests. Tapioca cultivation in the State was first begun in that taluk and was being carried on there in an extensive scale. Tapioca was the staple food of a large percentage of people in the State. The cultivation of pepper, rubber, coffee and tea was also largely carried on in the taluk. There were two water falls, one at Aruvikara in the Karamana river and the other at Aruvipuram in the Vamanapuram river, which could be utilised for generating electricity. There were also large extents of swampy areas inside the reserved forests in the taluk, which could be easily converted into fertile paddy fields without much capital and labour. These lands were useless to the Government from a forest point of view.

The taluk was deplorably lacking in facilities of means of communication. There were a few miles of road constructed by the Government, but they were neglected without proper maintenance and repair. There was a net-work of traces, mostly village roads opened by the people, which could be converted into good cart roads at a low cost. The people were also willing to hand them over to the Public Works Department for departmental maintenance.

The inhabitants of the taluk had not adequate facilities for educating their children. There were only two vernacular schools for girls in the taluk, of which one was in the Nedumangad town itself. This was housed in a dilapidated building constructed of mud and bamboos. The premises of the school were only 6 cents in extent. Almost all the vernacular schools in the taluk were housed in dilapidated and tottering sheds constructed with mud and old bamboos. There was only one English middle school in the whole taluk. The people of the taluk had surrendered a pucca building and compound worth about Rs. 25,000 for the purpose of converting the school into a High School. But, in spite of repeated requests, the modest prayer of the people to raise the school at least to the IV Form standard had been refused by the authorities on the ground of want of strength in the school.

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